IN THE CLAIMS:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A spacer for holding a number of elongated fuel rods intended to be located in a nuclear plant, wherein said spacer encloses a plurality of sleeves, each forming a cell having a longitudinal axis and arranged to receive a fuel rod in such a way that the fuel rod extends substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis,

each sleeve forming a single cell arranged to receive a single one of the fuel rods,

each sleeve ~~comprising,~~ being manufactured in a sheet-shaped material formed into a substantially cylindrical shape and extending around and limiting said single cell dimensioned for housing said single one of the fuel rods,

the sheet-shaped material comprising a first connection portion in the proximity of a first end and a second connection portion in the proximity of a second end, the first end overlapping the second end, ~~and wherein~~

the sheet-shaped material having a material thickness, which is less than 0.20 mm, and

the first connection portion and the second connection portion [[are]] being permanently connected to each other by means of at least one weld joint.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A spacer according to ~~claim 26~~ claim 25, wherein said weld joint includes a spot weld.

28. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 25, wherein the nuclear plant is arranged to permit re-circulation of a coolant flow and wherein the spacer is arranged to be located in the coolant flow, the spacer including at least one vane for influencing the coolant flow.

29. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 28, wherein said vane is formed by a portion of the material, which extends from the first connection portion.

30. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 28, wherein said vane is inclined in relation to the longitudinal axis.

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 25, wherein the sheet-shaped material ~~sleeve-like member~~ has a material thickness, which is less than or equal to about 0.18 mm.

34. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 25, wherein the ~~sleeve-like member~~ sleeve has an upper edge and a lower edge.

35. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 25, wherein the sleeve-like member includes a number of ridges, which project inwardly towards the longitudinal axis and extend substantially in parallel with the longitudinal axis for abutment to the fuel rod to be received in the cell.

36. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 34, wherein said ridges extend from the upper edge to the lower edge.

37. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 35, wherein each ~~sleeve-like member~~ sleeve includes at least four of said ridges.

38. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 34, wherein the lower edge, seen transversely to the longitudinal axis , has a wave-like shape with wave peaks and wave valleys and that the upper edge, seen transversely to the longitudinal axis , has a wave-like shape with wave peaks and wave valleys.

39. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 38, wherein said wave peaks are aligned with a respective one of said ridges, wherein said wave valleys are located between two adjacent ones of said ridges.

40. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 38, wherein the ~~sleeve-like members~~ sleeves abut each other in the spacer along a connection area extending in parallel to the longitudinal axis between one of said wave valleys of the upper edge and one of said wave valleys of the lower edge.

41. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 40, wherein the ~~sleeve-like members~~ sleeves are permanently connected to each other by means of weld joints.

42. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 40, wherein said weld joint includes an edged weld at said connection area at least one of the upper edge and the lower edge.

43. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 25, wherein the ~~sleeve-like member~~ sleeve seen in the direction of the longitudinal axis has four substantially orthogonal long sides.

44. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 35, wherein each long side includes one of said ridges.

45. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 28, wherein said vane extends outwardly from one of said long sides.

46. (Currently amended) A spacer according to claim 43, wherein the ~~sleeve-like member~~ sleeve seen in the direction of the longitudinal axis has four substantially orthogonal short sides, wherein each short side connects two of said of long sides.

47. (Previously presented) A spacer according to claim 38, wherein each short side includes with a portion of one of said wave valleys of the upper edge and a portion of one said wave valleys of the lower edge .

48. (Currently amended) A fuel unit for a nuclear plant comprising:

a number of elongated fuel rods, and

a number of spacers for holding the fuel rods, wherein

the spacers enclose a plurality of sleeves, each forming a cell having a longitudinal axis and being arranged to receive one of said fuel rods in such a way that the fuel rod extends in parallel to the longitudinal axis,

each sleeve forming a single cell arranged to receive a single one of the fuel rods,

each sleeve ~~comprising~~ being manufactured in a sheet-shaped material formed into a substantially cylindrical shape and extending around and limiting said single cell dimensioned for housing said single one of the fuel rods,

the sheet-shaped material comprising a first connection portion in the proximity of a first end and a second connection portion in the proximity of a second end, the first end overlapping the second end, ~~and wherein~~

the sheet-shaped material having a material thickness, which is less than 0.20 mm, and

the first connection portion and the second connection portion [[are]] being permanently connected to each other by means of at least one weld joint.